NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Some Thoughts on the alleged Discovery of Mr. Henry M. Paine, of Worcester, Massachusetts, and a few suggestions as to the true basis of Nature, or principles of Natural Cause.

Messrs. Gales & Seaton,
Editors of the National Intelligencer:

Gentlemen: When Mr. Paine, about the middle of last year, first announced his method of generating gas from water, through the instrumentality of electricity, I ventured, somewhat boldly, and perhaps imprudently, through the columns of "the Pennsylvanian," to countenance the idea, and to contend, on scientific grounds, for its probability, its possibility, and its practicability. In sustaining the view I then presented, I stated, *first*, what every one knew, or ought to have known, that the constituents of water were highly inflammable; *second*, that these constituents had been disengaged, at different times, in some considerable quantities, through the means of electricity, long prior to Mr. Paine's manipulations; *third*, that an exceedingly small quantity of any and every substantive matter contained a sufficient portion of the electrical principle to generate a force of almost incalculable power; and, *fourth*, that there were certain leading principles of natural cause, lying at the base of physical science, which the genius of man was gradually developing, and the ingenuity of man was gradually applying, that were rapidly tending to unfold a new series of philosophical conception, and to establish a new order of mechanical invention, in many respects counter to all received rule, and destined, in all probability, to convert the "song of steam" with which the earth resounds into its funeral chant. It seemed to me that there was sufficient reason in these positions which I assumed, and which I explained somewh[illegible] detail, to warrant me in speaking a word or two of encouragement to Mr. Paine, notwithstanding the public journals, for the most part, denounced him as an impostor, and almost every one of any very exalted pretensions to science in the country discountenanced, if indeed he did not directly declare the whole affair as alike improbable and impracticable. During the last month or two the subject has been again reopened by the press, and I have thought it might not be altogether out of place for me again to indulge in a few remarks on a topic of so much apparent interest to the public.

Judging from the statements contained in the "New York Herald," the Boston "Chronotype," and other journals, it appears now that Mr. Paine has, beyond all cavil, invented a method of so applying the electrical or magnetic agent as to eliminate from water its constituent parts, and then of *catalyzing* the hydrogen, all with sufficient celerity and in sufficient quantity to prove the entire practicability of so conducting the process as to render it subservient to the common wants of life. He has patented his invention, and the principle may be considered as fairly established. We may therefore pass from this point to a much more important and interesting feature, presented in the asserted fact, incidentally arrived at by him in reaching the first conclusion, that he converts at will the parts evolved from water into either hydrogen or oxygen, or into both. If this be true, it cannot but be regarded as involving a higher principle than the practical result, however consequential that may be. Over so singular a phenomenon we are led to pause, and to ask ourselves seriously the question, if the elements of Nature are not few and simple, perhaps not exceeding *three in all*, which, combining together, on the principle of the theory of atoms, or that of volumes, in a series of infinite progression, give rise to all forms and combinations of material structure whatever? Pardon me for saying that this view was presented by me as long ago as the year 1837, and afterwards repeated in a lecture delivered before the National Institute at Washington in the year 1843 or 1844, when the scientific gentlemen of our country assembled there in general meeting. And since this last date, reasoning more particularly from six established premises, viz. first, the coincidence of the magnetic pole with the point of intensest cold, established by Sir John Franklin; second, the coincidence of the isothernic lines with the magnetic lines of the earth, established by Sir David Brewster; third, the condensation of comets as they approach the sun, as set forth by Arago in 1831; fourth, the analysis and properties of light, as exhibited in the solar spectrum; fifth, the experiments on electricity, in illustration of its force, character, and quantity, by Faraday and Henry; and, sixth, the general principles or effects of caloric, however elicited—I have been strengthened and confirmed in the positions thus early assumed and presented by me. If now to these extraordinary and general facts we are permitted the privilege of adding, as a truth, the singular result incidentally reached by Mr. Paine, and consider it in reference to the principles of *actinism* and *catalysis*, I see no room to cavil over that theory advanced and advocated by me, maintaining a simple and unmixed *trinity of natural cause*.

It was the reasoning embraced in these leading conclusions, together with the considerations involved in the positions first mentioned above, which, in July last, in the communications referred to as having been published in the "Pennsylvanian" on the subject of the Paine light, and in despite of all the opposition of the press and of certain gentlemen associated with gas companies and colleges in New York and Boston, led me to assert that the progress of electrical science had, for years past, enabled the philosophic mind to foresee the practical result said to have been reached by Mr. Paine, and that many considerations co-operated in its favor. In those communications I remarked that the man of science was often permitted to assert a truth long before that truth was realized practically, and illustrated this remark by instancing the fact that Sir Isaac Newton, reasoning merely from the refractive powers of water, unhesitatingly pronounced that fluid to be composed of inflammable materials, and at a time when nothing was known of its constituent parts, and mankind only regarded it as the principle in Nature antagonistic to the principle of fire—a truth which analysis afterwards so beautifully verified, and presented as a rich offering to the memory of that great man.

The philosophical reasoner is not always a practical manipulator or machinist. Sometimes, it is true, we find the qualities necessary to each combined in one. But it more frequently happens that the one *educes* a principle and the other *reduces* it to practice. For useful purposes the two are mutually dependant. The rule must be given by the one, or its application cannot be made by the other. It rarely happens that the mere man of the laboratory is the genius who originates, although he serves to promote and unfold the conceptions of genius. I claim, however, to be neither the one nor the other, although the investigation of science has occupied more of my time perhaps, than any other subject, and I love it for the sake of its beauty and its truth. But reasoning from general principles in connexion with what is already known, I do not hesitate to assert here, what I have heretofore often declared in private circles, that there is no good reason for doubting the results said to have been reached by Mr. Paine, even in their fullest extent, and whether as to the production of a brilliant light from water, or as to those other phenomena involved, first, in the evolution of a single substance, partaking, at one time, of the character of hydrogen, and at another of the character of oxygen, just as the will of the operator may determine; and, second, in the manner of carburetting the hydrogen by passing it through spirits of turpentine, with only the slightest conceivable waste of the turpentine; for as to the separation of the elements of water, both electrically and mechanically, and afterwards the burning of those elements with the evolution of heat and light, there is nothing new; and as to the last mentioned phenomena, which have staggered so many of our wise men, when I reason in regard to them from the principles of *catalysis* and *actinism*, I see nothing in them more remarkable than we find in the fact of the conversion of starch into sugar or gum, by the *mere presence* of an acid, without any perceptible intermingling of parts, or diminution in the quantity of acid employed, and to which fact I might add a thousand others of a similar nature, as ascertained by Hirchoff, Thinard, Berzelius, Pelouze, and Playfair, and to be found recorded in the books, the "Annales de Chimie," and other philosophical journals.

Nor am I satisfied to stop where Mr. Paine leaves us, although it seems he has caused society to stare and wonder sufficiently at his ingenious contrivances. But, extending the process of logical deduction based on the principles at issue, I will venture to say that the day is not far distant, when we shall have ships crossing the ocean, in the first place propelled by steam as now, but which steam shall be generated through the instrumentality of fire derived entirely from the waters of the ocean, and not from coals and other known fuels as now. Indeed, eight years ago I presented this precise idea to the then President of the United States, as he doubtless remembers, saying to him at the same time that he, in all probability, would live to see the philosophical conception realized. Without an unforeseen accident I have but little doubt that I, at least, shall live to see it, and not only this, but, in the second place, I expect to behold a combination of the electrical principle and the principle caloric, producing a more rapid propulsion, both by sea and land, than any we have yet known; and in the third place, I shall see the atmosphere made to act as a substitute for steam (though not perhaps to its abandonment) in ocean navigation; (1) and in the fourth place, the air itself navigated with as much ease as we now navigate the waters. I say I arrive at these conclusions by extending the process of logical deduction from facts and principles already known; and in view of such results, I feel as if the limits of this planetary sphere were becoming too narrow and contracted for the full display of man's unfolding intellect; for even now the electrical agent has robbed space and time of all meaning, annihilating alike the extent of the first and the duration of the last.

It is unquestionably true, that, although the human mind has been operating under many mistaken impressions as to the true principles of science; although it has labored under the delusion that there were in nature many original elementary bodies, and drawn positive distinctions on the one hand, between weight and gravity, and cohesion and affinity, and actinism and attraction, and electricity and magnetism; and on the other hand, between expansion and evaporation, and combustion and fusion, and repulsion and caloric; although it has made light a distinctive principle, and not a combination, as it really is; although it has supposed cold to be but the mere absence of heat, and lightness but the mere absence of weight; although it has reasoned as if the electrical agent manifested two distinct properties and was in itself a duality, has scarcely considered the true character of caloric, and has confounded, but too often, the only original and independent forces of nature, sometimes mistaken the one for the other, and sometimes substituting an effect for the cause, by which shortsightedness it has frequently been led to adopt the wildest and most untenable surmises—still, in despite of all this jumble of idea and erroneous conception, it has accomplished and is accomplishing much, as the result of a few happy premises deduced from detailed experiment. Health and the arts, commerce and agriculture have all been thus promoted and expanded. The application of the electrical agent to analytical purposes has established the science of chemistry, so widely useful in every department of life, upon a broad and sure basis, and through the instrumentality of caloric the wilderness has been peopled and the ultimate ends of the earth redeemed.

But what have we yet accomplished, or what may we reasonably hope to achieve, as the direct deduction from principles known—though, as mentioned above, they appear startling and gigantic—in comparison with those realizations which shall follow the rending of the veil of mystery and of doubt in these respects? When the intellect of man shall cease to look in nature for miraculous phantoms, in order to gratify its craving curiosity, but shall come to learn that her plan is as simple as her means are simple; when we shall come to appreciate those two great indivisible and unalterable lines of original principle and force, through whose instrumentality alone has been generated all the forms and structure of the material world, organic or inorganic, animal, vegetable, or mineral, and all the motions, external or internal, of the heavenly bodies; when we shall be taught to note and to understand, on the one hand, the principle which ruled *chaos* in the beginning, and on the other hand the spirit which walked as the spirit of God upon the waters, separating those below the firmament from those above the firmament, and producing *order* out of confusion; when, in other and perhaps more sententious words, but still words of the same import, we shall be filled with the knowledge of the unadorned though majestic truth, that the *Creator*, through a simple *trinity of material cause*—viz. caloric or repulsion, electricity or attraction, and naturity or the mother of atoms—has consummated his mighty conception; that he has thus generated motion and light concomitantly, and through motion made change infinite in time, in space, in form, in substance, and in property; and through light furnished the pabulum of life and clothed the infant universe in robes more glorious far than those in which Solomon stood arrayed, though woven in Tyre and dyed in royal purple—all that we have accomplished, those voluminous works of science under which the shelves of our libraries are made to groan, will be numbered, for the most part, with the musty lore of the astrologer and the alchemist, as being little worth except to explain to the curious the earlier gropings of mind; and those mighty works of art over which we now so loudly boast, believing that we have become as gods, will sink into insignificance, and be remembered only as stepping stones to loftier and more ennobling heights of mental triumph.

I pretend neither to prophesy, nor to unusual sagacity, nor to mechanical skill, but an investigation from the time of my boyhood, running now over a period of some fifteen years, has led me to the conviction that man must become convinced that the whole system of nature has been educed from the combined action of *three primary causes—two active and one passive*.

That of the two active principles, one is altogether *attractive* and the other altogether *repulsive* in its action.

That the attractive principle is due to and synonymous with electricity.

That the repulsive principle is due to and synonymous with caloric.

That cold, and contraction, and cohesion, and affinity, and weight, and gravity, are *all* in the continuous resulting *attractive* line.

That heat, and expansion, and evaporation, and combustion, and fusion, and repulsion, are all in the continuous resulting *repulsive* line.

That these two active principles are eternally combining with *naturity*, or the passive principle, under similar rules to those set forth in the theory of atoms or that of volumes, and thus have generated and are generating a ceaseless and infinite progression of substance and of form.

That equilibrium is the constant resulting law of this combination, to which each and every action tends, and attraction or repulsion, one or the other, as either may predominate, the constant concomitant effect of change in substance and form.

That when the attractive and repulsive principles are counterpoised in the passive, the substance and form becomes fixed and is held in positive suspension, or in other words has reached the point of equilibrium.

That under the prevalence of either the attractive or repulsive principle, the substance and form loses its fixedness of character, and assumes a new equilibrium, and, consequently, a new character at the point where the counterpoise of force is re-established.

That motion is the first effect and light the first production of these three original and primary principles entering into union; and that, therefore, motion is but an action, whereas light is a compound substance.

That magnetic force, actinic force, catalytic force, and chemical or analytic force, are *all*, as motion, but following after motion, among the earlier and most refined effects of these three original principles, either individually or collectively; and as in the system of nature every effect becomes in its turn a cause, these forces may be ranked in the line of *secondary causes*, generating more *immediately* the phenomena of life, of being, and of existence, although these phenomena are more *remotely* due to the three *primary* causes mentioned as being the causes of all things.

That the more general effects as to production, such as the formation and suspension and rotation in space of the planetary spheres, are due more especially to the three primary causes in direct action, and more particular effects, or individual production, to their secondary action, through magnetic, actinic, catalytic, and chemical or analytic force.

That the so-called elementary bodies of chemistry are none other than compounds of these three original and primary principles in their earlier combinations the one with the other, following after light, uniting in definite proportions in each case, beginning with hydrogen, and terminating with the series.

Having now obtained the primary causes of things, and from them motion and the secondary causes of things, together with light and the first series of production, we arrive at the point where the secondary causes begin to operate upon the first series of production, generating new and successive series of production; or, in other words, we reach the point where magnetic force, actinic force, catalytic force, and chemical and analytic force, acting from, in, through, and by light, upon the earlier, more refined, and attenuated formations of the three primaries, (commonly known as the elementary bodies of chemistry,) existing in an extreme gaseous form, generate first liquids, and afterwards solids, together with their concomitants of vegetable and animal existence.

That, finally, having motion derived in the beginning and continuing to the end, we perceive that "no one thing can abide, in any one stay;" and, viewing all the premises in their length and breadth, height and depth, we are prepared to understand why the system of Nature is as it really is, viz. a system of *order*, yet a system of *change*; a system of *permanency*, yet a system of *mutation*; a system of *harmony*, yet a system of *variety*; a system always *beginning*, yet a system always *ending*!

I say that, when man, throwing aside his prejudices and his love for phantoms, shall come to con over this simple chart of Nature, and learn from it its immortal truths, he will then, for the first time, justly come to esteem himself as indeed God's most precious handiwork. He will come to know that he has not only through his intellect been endowed with a portion of omniscience, but, grasping the two great forces of the world, he will claim a portion of omnipotence. He will come to estimate rightly these two mighty lines of power, and will see that the electric or attractive line can manifest no repulsive effects, and that the calorific or repulsive line can manifest no attractions. For his practical or mechanical purposes, he will *first* apply them separately, generating two sets of independent actions, enabling him, through the instrumentality of either, to glide over the earth, or the ocean, or to sail through the air, as he may wish. He will, *secondly*, apply them collectively, but operating in a continuous direction; and now he will become converted into a Titan, whose breathings shall uplift the Etnean weight which should struggle to confine his gigantic strength. His weapons of battle will be shafts of lightning and bolts of fire; and he will now have reached the fulcrum and the lever which once floated wildly in the brain of Archimedes, and may shout back to the spirit of that ancient and renowned philosopher his own joyful cry, raised two thousand years ago, "*Eureka!*" for peace would dwell in the land, as war would be *annihilation!* (2.)

Though, gentlemen, yourselves and your readers may be disposed to regard much, if not all, I have said as idle imaginings, I can only answer you, as Galileo answered on a memorable occasion in his life, by saying that the system of Nature does not depend upon what we may think. "*It is so!*" Neither public nor private opinion can alter the truths of Natural Science, and time alone can establish them. (3) (4) (5)

I have the honor to be yours, very respectfully,
JOHN TYLER, Jr.

Philadelphia, January 10, 1851.

Note 1.—As to the prediction made here, that atmospheric air may be made to take the place of steam in ocean navigation, I see from the newspapers that some one in Springfield, Massachusetts, has accomplished the idea since this passage was written, and has already proceeded with the invention to the World's Fair in London.

Note 2.—Archimides, two thousand years ago, was prepared to destroy the fleets of the then known world with light alone, and did actually so destroy the Roman fleet. It was this remarkable man who also first discovered the rules of specific gravity, on which much of our best scientific knowledge is now based. On discovering these principles, it is said he became so elated that, in a state of nudity, (the conception having come to him while in his bath,) he ran through the streets of Syracuse shouthing "*Eureka!*"—*it is found!* It was also him who used the memorable expression, "Give me a resting place, and I will move the world." Bonaparte, whose eagle eye, it seems, nothing of value escaped, when First Consul, ordered the works of this great philosopher to be translated by the ablest members of the "Academie." M. Delambre and M. Peyrard performed the task. Since writing the above communication, I have met with an able article on these labors of Delambre and Peyrard in the Edinburgh Review of May, 1811, from which I venture to make the following extract, in support of my allusions as recorded:

"Archimedes may justly be regarded, on the whole, as the most inventive philosopher that has ever appeared. Born in the Island of Sicily, where Grecian colonies had carried the liberal arts to a very high pitch of improvement, he discovered an early passion for knowledge and elegant science; and, following the impulse of his inclination, he repaired to Egypt and completed his education at the Royal establishment of Alexandria, the great seat of mathematical learning, which, in every branch, had for ages flourished under the munificent patronage of the Ptolemies. On his return to Syracuse, he devoted himself entirely to abstract research; and having, by his creative genius, improved the method of geometrical analysis, he now carried that refined instrument beyond its ordinary limits, and investigated, with the happiest success, the relations of curved lines, surfaces, and solids. He measured the parabolo; approximated to the quadrature of the circle; investigated the properties of spherials and conoids; assigned the superficial extent of the spherical zones, and determined those fine proportions which connect the sphere with the cone and cylinder. In his *Arcnarius* he has pushed to vast extent the ideas of arithmetical notation, and seems almost to have anticipated there, in some degree, the sublime invention of logarithms.

"Such abstruse discoveries required, at that early period, the most intense application of thought. Archimedes did not, however, confine his views to mere speculation; but, embracing the widest range, he particularly cultivated those objects which are of most importance to a commercial and maritime State. He established the true principles of mechanics, and laid the foundation of hydrostatics; and, by assigning the position of the centre of gravity in a variety of figures, and fixing the circumstances which determine the stability of floating bodies, he traced out the first rudiments of naval architecture. His talents and inexhaustible resources as a practical engineer suspended the fall of Syracuse, and enabled that petty State to resist successfully, for the space of three whole years, the most strenuous efforts of Roman power. But the philosopher was not doomed to survive the independence of his native country. He perished amid the scene of horror and indiscriminate carnage which closed the fatal assault."

I think it is Plutarch who says that when the Roman soldiery burst in upon him they found him calmly engaged in his intellectual labors, and that he merely desired, before being slain where he sat, to be permitted to finish the problem on which he was engaged at the time. Surely the generations that are to come after us will have better premises to reason from, and to apply to invention, than Archimedes had two thousand years ago, when he launched his shafts of light against the Roman fleet.

Note 3.—The "Washington Globe" of January 18th last, in commenting upon some of the views which I presented in the "Pennsylvanian," seems to think that if the predictions made by me are derived from true premises, Congress had better not go to the expense of constructing Whitney's railroad to California, for that by the time the road was finished very little use would be had for it, inasmuch as other modes of journeying to California, much cheaper and more expeditious, would be suggested. In reply to this I have only to say, that, was I a member of Congress, apart from other reasons, I should oppose Mr. Whitney's scheme, merely upon the ground that, in my belief, other modes of conveyance to California, cheaper and perhaps more expeditious than common railroads, would be invented and applied before that scheme *could be* carried into full execution. Senator Douglas, in presenting Mr. Wise's aeronautic propositions, seemed to think there was more *method* than *madness* in them.

Note 4.—I do not wish to be understood as assigning to Mr. H. M. Paine's invention a preference over other modes of generating gas from water. For practical purposes, I incline to the idea that *Gillard's* process is far preferable to Mr. Paine's, and in all probability will supersede it. It is also stated, in the public journals, that the Rev. Mr. Clarke, through the use of mercury in the place of water, in the hollow helices resorted to by Mr. Paine, has obtained much more powerful electrical effects, accompanied by far more rapid and abundant discharges of gas, than Mr. Paine has ever obtained. I only mean to say that Mr. Paine's process is true in itself, and constitutes an important advance in experimental science; and that in a few years we may confidently expect to have our houses lighted, and perhaps heated, through water gas. I do not argue from this that coal gas must be immediately superseded, though it will strike any one acquainted with the constituents of water that we have, in the boundless oceans and unmeasured rivers of the earth, a much more abundant source of gas than in the coal beds.

Note 5.—Mr. Robert Hunt, in his late beautiful work entitled, rather improperly, as conveying a false idea of its actual value as a philosophical work, "*The Poetry of Science*," has taken a general survey of the most recent steps in every department of natural philosophy proper, and upon the whole concludes that it is more than probable that all the principles of nature may be reduced to five or six, viz: The principle of caloric, of actinism, of catalycis, of analysis of light and of electricity, or magnetism. These six agents, acting on what he supposes to be the original principle of ponderable matter, produce all things and all life. I differ with him, *first*, in this, viz: I do not make electricity and magnetism precisely synonymous, but magnetism I account as the effect of electricity as the principle. *Second*, I account magnetism, actinism, catalysis, and analysis, or rather magnetic force, actinic force, catalytic force, and analytic, force, together with motion, *all* as being effects of caloric and electricity, as the only original and primary *active* principles in nature. *Third*, I do not hold that caloric and electricity are necessarily imponderable, but so far from it contend that the *attractive* energies of electricity cause all perceptible ponderosity whatever. *Fourth*, in the place of Mr. Hunt's principle of ponderable matter I substitute the *passive* principle naturity, equally subtile and refined as either caloric or electricity, but differing as to *elasticity*, it not being elastic as they are. *Fifth*, I thus reduce all primary principles to *three*, viz: Caloric, or the cause of repulsive actions; electricity, or the cause of attractive actions; and naturity the unelastic, passive conceiving principle. The first *equilibrium* established by the union of these three principles is light, accompanied by the first action or motion. Now follow a regular succession of actions on the one hand, and points of equilibrium or effects on the other, and we have the actions or secondary forces termed magnetic, actinic, catalytic, and analytic, and the secondary series of equilibriums or effects termed "elementary bodies" in ordinary chemistry. These secondary forces and secondary bodies, now acting upon each other, generate all the forms and varieties of physical structure, organic or inorganic.

It seems to me that every thing in the books tends directly to establish these premises, it matters not to what extent they have been perverted from their true meaning; but neither my time, nor the space in your columns, will permit me to extend the inquiry just now.

The way to obtain either electrical or calorific power is to destroy the equilibrium of the body acted on, and the slightest disturbance will often do this; as, for instance, in gunpowder or chloride of potassium, whichever of the two is *set free* generates the power exhibited, and when we come to examine the manner in which different explosive substances act, we are left no room to doubt that caloric acts differently from electricity; as, for instance, in the two substances just mentioned.
JOHN TYLER, Jr.

Philadelphia, April 14, 1851.

THE SPEECH OF SIR HENRY BULWER AT THE ST. GEORGE DINNER, IN NEW YORK.

The President having announced the fourth regular toast, viz. "Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer, her Majesty's Representative in the United States," which he introduced with some appropriate remarks, and which was received with tremendous cheering—

Mr. Bulwer said: You, Mr. President, have been kind enough to say that I have won some distinction in my profession. If so, it has been owing to one thing, and that is, if I have ever engaged to do a thing, I always do it, if it be possible. This is the principle under which I appear before you to-night. But when I reflect on the indisposition under which I labor to night, and how frequently I have before addressed you on similar subjects, I confess that I feel in that situation which my countryman, Sir William Don, has so well acted, completely "*used up*." [Laughter.] Still I have one consolation; in this country, if a man has not a leg to stand upon, he can take to the *stump*. [Laughter.] I fear I am not sufficiently Americanized to make a stump speech; but there is nothing like trying; and, if any thing could inspire me, it would be the present occasion. Where are we? We have met here three thousand miles from home to keep alive the sacred fires that burn on our national altars; to declare, in the face of the whole world, that wherever an Englishman is, he is still proud of the land of his birth; [applause;] and to testify, amidst overflowing cups, and with hearts still more overflowing to the holiest of all affections save our love to our God—I mean our love for our country.

Many of you have, like me, travelled far, and seen many things. Do any of you feel less of an Englishman than when he last saw the white cliffs of Albion? God bless thee, old England! Thou art ever dear to all thy sons! [Great cheering.]

> "Where'er we roam, whatever realms we see,
> Our hearts, untravelled, fondly turn to thee."

Yet, after all, if a man is obliged to leave his native country, it is some comfort not to leave his native language. [Applause.] Nor is this all. An Englishman is a very curious animal to understand. [Laughter.] Variable as his own climate, stiff and reserved to foreigners, shy and distrustful even to himself, no one can understand him unless it be a people of the same race and who speak the same tongue. [Applause.] I had an example of this kind the other day. An American gentleman said to me, "I have just come from your country, sir; I'll tell you my opinion of your countrymen; John Bull is a downright man!" Now, in this expression, my American friend struck off at a stroke our national character. As we are in a circle of friends, I will venture to say that John Bull cannot be called a smart man. [Laughter.] On the contrary, he is a homely sort of fellow, whose motto is, "handsome is that handsome does." [Applause.] But he never promises any thing which he does not perform, and he never performs any thing which does not give token of future promise. [Applause and laughter.] I think I should be flattering him were I to say that he was a very fast man, [laughter,] for he is always afraid of "outrunning the constable." [Laughter.] But any one who knows John Bull even by sight, knows well that what he wants in speed he makes up for in *bottom*; [renewed laughter;] in fact, to judge of his qualities, it is necessary to see him in a long race; it is then found out immediately that he never has to stop for want of breath, for he can raise the wind whenever he likes it; [laughter;] however anxious not to be slow, he is still more determined to be sure, and in his hurry to *go ahead* takes good care always not to *go head over heels*. [Laughter.] Others have been before him in measuring the mountains of the moon, and inventing machines to ride through the air. He is not a person of these high flights, but take him on the earth or on the water, he claims the first honors of the railroad on the one, of the steam vessel on the other. In short, to return to what my American friend said, there is a *downright* security in what John Bull says, a *downright* solidity in what he does, a *downright* steadiness in the pace at which he goes, and a *downright* practicability in what he invents, that makes him the type of the *downright*. [Applause.] And when he holds out his hand, (doubling and shaking his fist,) whether open or shut, he does it in such a downright way [renewed laughter] that every one says, that's just the sort of fellow I should like to have for a friend, and not at all the sort of fellow I should like for an enemy. [Great applause.] Have I given you a true description of John Bull? [Loud cries of "Yes!"] Well then let us give a jolly good cheer for John Bull! [Three cheers.]

But the present assembly is not merely an assembly of Englishmen, but an assembly of Englishmen, the guests of a Society formed for the most charitable of all purposes, that of receiving the poor emigrant when he arrives in a strange land, [applause,] and showing him the means by which he can make his labors most useful to himself and to the country to which he has come. [Applause.] I am glad (continued Sir H. B.) to find myself amongst a Society of such a description, for I am one of those who believe in the general progress of mankind:

> "For I doubt not thro' the ages some increasing purpose runs,
> And the thoughts of men are widening with the process of the suns." [Loud applause.]

But I cannot disguise from myself that a number of old fallacies still bewilder our minds, and cling to our heels. I say, therefore, that I delight to find myself amongst this Society, because I could not summon a better witness to contradict the most vulgar and common of all fallacies, viz. that of supposing that, in every transaction between State and individuals, what one party gains the other must lose. [Applause.] What, let me ask you, Mr. President, has been taking place under your eyes? Have you not seen the foreign capitalist wanting employment for his capital, the foreign laborer wanting employment for his industry, and the American farmer and manufacturer wanting railroads to facilitate the transit and enhance the value of his produce—railroads which were likely to return great profits, if once made, but which he (the American) wanted capital and labor to make? Well, have you not seen the foreign capitalist advancing his money to bring out the foreign laborer to construct the American railways? And has any one been a loser by these transactions? No, sir! The foreign capitalist has increased his capital, the foreign laborer has maintained himself and family, the American farmer and manufacturer has doubled, in some cases quadrupled, the value of his property. [Loud applause.] My reverend friend (I wish I could say say "my right reverend friend") [applause and laughter] on the left has spoken of the blessings of peace. I concur with him, but I don't confine those blessings within the mere fact that a man is to die a little later by fever or the gout than he would do otherwise by the sword or pistol. [Laughter.]

I estimate the blessings of peace just in proportion to the manner in which they are diffused over the wide surface of international intercourse; by which I mean the relations which each portion of the world is intended by Nature and Providence to maintain with each other. When I say by Nature and Providence, I speak advisedly; for well has it been said by that great poet, who seems to have known the world and heart of man almost as well as though he himself had made them, that there is throughout the universe, in all things above and below, each respectively to the other,

> "—————— a form and place,
> Custom and office in all line of order,"

and as he affirms that amidst the heavenly bodies there is one silvery orb

> "Which by its medicinable eye
> Corrects the ill effects of planets evil,"

So I venture to say that in this our nether world, this western hemisphere, with its abundant harvests, its free and boundless territory, corrects the ill effects of our stagnant civilization and stifling cities. [Great applause.]

Your Society, sir, is a goodly instrument for carrying out this great design; and will you permit me to return you a just and merited compliment for its excellent purpose and useful exertions?

And now allow me, on the present occasion, to single out for *peculiar* honor one *especial* and illustrious emigrant, who doubtless, with the permission of Queen Victoria, and at your intercession, is present at our festival this evening. I speak in honor, sir, of no stranger to the British family. The illustrious guest to whom I allude was often, as we may see by ancient chronicles, found leading us to the charge in our earliest battles; and, although he is no longer visible to us on these occasions, probably because our eyes are somewhat dimmed by the light of the times we live in, yet, sir, it is well known to every schoolboy that he was side by side with Wolfe when that gallant General stormed the heights of Abraham; that he stood shoulder by shoulder with Nelson, when that brave commander, covered with stars and scars, trod for the last time the deck of the Victory; and looked down with Wellington from the heights of Waterloo, when the tottering empire of Napoleon made its last and fatal charge. [Great applause.] Ay, and throughout the whole of that conflict by which, for so many years, Europe was convulsed, when the hand of a foreign invader tore down the national colors from every ancient establishment, it was he, who, on the topmost height of the old and venerable fabric of the British Constitution, kept fast and flying yonder red cross of England, [pointing to the flag,] an emblem of hope to the oppressed, and a token of defiance to the oppressor! [Loud and long applause.] You know already whom I mean. His banner, gentlemen, is on those walls: his badge, Mr. President, is on your breast; his image is in all your hearts! Hurrah for for St. George of merry England! [Deafening shouts of applause.]

And now, gentlemen, since you have been so kind in your reception of the name I just uttered, will you allow me to propose the health of a near and dear relative of our patron Saint—I mean St. Jonathan? I have seen this same gentleman in many guises. I have just come from visiting him as a Virginia planter; I have shaken hands with him as a Western farmer; I have been feasted by him in this very hall as a New England pilgrim; [laughter;] I have dined with him sociably as a New York merchant, and known him well as an American statesman, both in and out of office, [applause.] And I will tell you that I do not believe there is a more generous or honest-hearted saint in the whole calendar; [applause;] one who is more willing to give his best bottle of wine to a friend, or to drink his friend's best bottle of wine if he gives it him; [laughter;] who is more skilled to turn a penny or more splendid to spend a guinea. [Applause.] But St. Jonathan, though not solely, is especially a seafaring sort of saint, [laughter,] and he has at this time a vessel on the ocean, about which he is somewhat anxious, though in in reality there is no sort of danger. I think I see flying from her topmast the *Union* Jack, [loud applause;] I think I hear a cry of "a long pull, a strong pull, a pull *altogether*" from the lips of the crew, [long and loud applause;] and she carries as her freight the language of Shakspeare, the code of Blackstone, and the creed of Christ! [Great applause.] Let us drink, gentlemen, to this great ship of State; [sensation;] let us drink to her long and prosperous voyage, and let no wind from the North or from the South impede its progress or peril its precious cargo! [Loud applause.]

There is a French proverb, gentlemen, "*l'appetit vient en mangeant*," which, translated into English, means "*one shoulder of mutton drives down another!*" There is a peculiar value also, as all philosophers agree, in the "*rule of three*," and as I have already proposed to you St. George and St. Jonathan, will you let me now propose to you the health of another Saint, the patron saint of the place wherein we have now met? I mean *St. Nickerbocker!* [applause and laughter.] And don't let us make any mistake! I say this, because there were formerly persons who *did* confound the *Flying Dutchman* with the *Devil*. [Laughter.] Now, there is no sort of affinity between *Old Knickerbocker* and *Old Nick!* [laughter,] and if you wish to have the difference strongly marked, you have only to remember that whereas the one, according to the best information we have been able to receive, always keeps his visiters parched and thirsty, [laughter,] the other, as you will have perceived this evening, gives them plenty of excellent wine, and has taken the greatest possible pains to procure for them an abundant supply of capital water. [Great applause and laughter.]

I have thus linked together, gentlemen, "St. George," "St. Jonathan," and "St. Knickerbocker," because this good city of New York may, I believe, be said to have been built by these three great *Free Masons*; [laughter;] a city which well deserves the title of the "Empire City" in the *New* World, as our own city of London, I will presume to say, merits the same imperial denomination in the *Old* World! [Applause.]

You see, gentlemen, that I have thus contrived to lead you from the stately banks of the Potomac and the magnificent scenery of the Hudson to our smaller but not altogether ignoble Thames, [applause.] Are you surprised at this? No!

> "Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
> Who to himself has never said,
> This is my own, my native land?
> Whose heart has not within him burned,
> As home his footsteps he has turned,
> From wandering on a foreign strand? [Applause.]
> If such there be"——

I am sure he is not in this company! [Laughter.] For, if this love of country is so universal throughout the human race that it thrills the Indian hunter amidst the trackless and desolate forests, and is felt even by the slave who has often been known when proffered flight and freedom to cling to the recollections round his master's door, how much more must it be felt by every British breast! [Great applause.] But, gentlemen, if I feel peculiar pride in the land of our common birth, it is not merely on account of

> ——————"The natural bravery of that isle,
> Which stands, like Neptune's park, ribbed and paled in
> By rocks unscaleable, and roaring waters."

Nor is it merely because that small speck in the measureless sea has extended out the vigorous arms of its Ocean Empire

> ——————"As far as the breeze can bear
> Or billows foam."

No, it is because I see in that brave little Island the sanctuary of liberty and law. It is because I have marked that, throughout that mighty and extended Empire, morality and religion, commerce and civilization sprung up every where side by side. [Cheers.]

Mere conquest, gentlemen, is a vulgar thing. There were the Tartar conquerors: they swept over the earth. Their march was marked by slaughter, and their trophies were human skulls. [Applause.] There were the Roman conquerers; the mightiest they, of all antiquity; but how does the Latin historian make the ancient Briton subjected to their sway describe the end and aim of all their conquests? He says sadly: They make a solitude, and call that "peace!" [Deep emotion.] Long will that phrase of Tacitus brand the fame of his countrymen! But we, English, instead of making solitudes and calling that peace, have made wars that have peopled solitudes. [Loud and long applause.] Our legions have marched through wildernesses, and behind them have sprung up blooming gardens and gallant cities; and many is the fair land in which, since their passage, civilized man breathes the prayer of christian mercy over spots where formerly the savage scalped his foe and the wolf devoured his victim! [Immense cheering.] Gentlemen, I confess I admire great Empire, but I admire far more the great use of it. [Applause.] When I take up the map of Asia, I feel, doubtless, some pride in finding a hundred millions of its inhabitants subjected to the British rule; but this pride is nothing to that which fills my breast as I reflect that there is not one among that one hundred millions who, whether he be a Hindoo or a Mahommedan, a warrior of the mountain tribes of Mahratta, or a subtle inhabitant of the soft cities of Bengal, who does not fly to a British tribunal as a blessed refuge from the persecution of his neighbor, or from the fraud and injustice of his own race or creed. [Loud and continued cheers.] And so, gentlemen, when I take up the map of North America, and there follow out, at its northern extremities, that long line which encloses the immense territory which bears the British name, the exultation which fills my heart is small to that I entertain when, on inquiring into the laws and condition of our colonies in those parts, I find that there is not a people on the face of the globe more lightly taxed, more liberally governed, or who can, though I say it, be more powerfully protected, than our brave, dearly loved, and loyal brethren who there acknowledge the beneficent sceptre of Queen Victoria. [Loud applause.]

Gentlemen, as long as I see things thus, I would not willingly consent that Great Britain should lose an inch of her present wide domain, one particle of her present mighty power of rendering justice and doing good. Would that it had been ever thus! [Cheers.]

Those who have studied the fortunes of these countries where we now are, know that they were built up by our hardy character, out of our own free laws; but when we had raised them to that height in which they furnished forth a good and noble edifice to inhabit, we unfortunately pulled down the fabric about our ears, and were not altogether undeservedly stoned from the ruins of our work. [Great applause.] Yes, gentlemen, and in proportion to the hardness of the materials which we had put into that work, was the hardness of the blows which we received. [Laughter.]

I will not say that I rejoice at that event. I know that there are occulists who tell you that if one eye is put out the other sees the clearer for the loss; but I would not try myself, and would not recommend any very intimate friend of mine to try this Polyphemian operation. [Applause and laughter.] I will not say, therefore, that I rejoice at this event. It would be humbug and affectation in me to do so; and, above all things, I detest humbug and affectation. [Applause.] But since it took place so long ago, and was in part the consequence of our own faults, I do say, without any humbug or affectation, that I do rejoice at the power and prosperity which this independent country now enjoys. [Applause.]

I can say that I feel pride and pleasure at seeing a separate tribe of our great family raising its tent so high and extending it so broadly and so proudly by the side of the tent of its great forefather! [Loud applause.] And is not the time now come in which these two kindred people would do well to forget that they ever stood toward each other in the fratricidal attitude of Cain and Abel, but only recollect that they are children of the same parents, and their earliest and holiest recollections gather round the same Eden! [Applause.] Aye, gentlemen, let us bury our fathers' quarrels in our fathers' graves, [applause,] and we shall then find that Englishmen and Americans are not only Anglo-Saxon brothers, but even Siamese Twins, [great laughter;] or, at all events, twins after the manner of Siam, for the same current of blood runs through their veins, the same current of thought animates their minds, and are they not bound together by the same strongest tie that can unite two human beings—the same interest? [Applause and laughter.]

What are the facts known to us all? Are not more than two-thirds of the staple produce of this country exported to England? Nearly all the staple products of the great West go in the same direction. And when we look at the general exports from this country, out of the one hundred and fifteen millions dollars worth thus exported, ninety-three millions are sent to the British market! [Applause.] When the ligament which unites Great Britain and the United States together is of such solid and substantial material, are we to fear that any rusty old weapon taken from the armory of bygone quarrels will cut such ligament asunder? [Cheers.] No; never! There may be, to be sure, now and then, an Englishman who will say that America crows a little too much over John Bull, but I shall take the liberty of telling him that such tales are mere *cock and bull stories*. [Great laughter.] And I would advise my American friend here, whenever he hears any companion of his speak of John Bull being desirous of trampling America under his feet, to assure him that if there be any bull in the case, it is an Irish bull, [great laughter,] the head and tail of which are a mistake! [Renewed laughter.] I am sure, gentlemen, that the sentiments which I thus express are those of nine-tenths of the American people, and though there may be some few who dissent from them, that these few will ere long be guided by their good sense and reason, and come round to them. I think, indeed, there are already signs of a considerable change. When people mean to be really vicious, they either bark or bite; whereas I observe that those who now show this evil propensity, instead of barking or biting, have adopted a sort of ventriloquistic squeal, [loud laughter,] by which they mean to have it believed that I am speaking when they move their own lips and utter their own sentiments. [Laughter.]

I will say a word or two on this matter. Do any of you, gentlemen, happen to have any good natured friends? [Laughter.] If so, you can understand how my good natured friends at Washington all crowded around me immediately on my return from Richmond, to relate how a most infamous publication had appeared in some journal, I believe called the "Boston Celt," purporting to be an intercepted despatch from me to the English Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Now, people usually advertise when they have lost property; but I wish to advertise that I have lost no property at all. [Laughter.] I suppose that the gentleman who has adopted the ancient title of *Celt* means to signify by that denomination that he personifies the peculiar characteristics of the old Celtic race; and doubtless, therefore, it would be natural to conjecture that any person claiming the semi-clad, semi-barbarous, and somewhat marauding attributes of the early Celtic family had been guilty of the crime of which this Boston "*Celt*" boasts, namely "*theft*:" but he has in reality been guilty of an offence which more appropriately belongs to a further advanced stage of pantaloons and refinement—[laughter]—I mean forgery; another example, by the way, of the general maxim that all savages, whether Celtic or otherwise, when they take to inhabiting cities, even such moral cities as Boston, [laughter,] adopt the vices without acquiring the virtues or the graces of civilized life. [Cheers and laughter.] And here I should leave the subject, but that I am rather inclined to suspect that the unkind barbarian of Massachusetts, instead of intending a more serious offence, has merely been perpetrating a bad joke, in the shape of a political squib, wherein, according to the true spirit of his old Celtic and Druidic superstition, he unhesitatingly sacrifices me on the altar of his popular gods, [laughter,] in order to propitiate them in favor of the Presidential claims of an excellent friend of mine, by making that friend appear (every thing that is at all Yankee will adopt such odd *notions*)—[laughter]—a particular enemy of England. Now, I should be sorry to do this friend any disservice, but I do not believe that I shall be doing him any disservice by stating that I don't look upon him as an enemy to England at all, and that I feel sure he is only just as much so as any of the other great American statesmen whom I know, love, and honor, and of whom I always speak and *write* with due respect; that is, he is not an Englishman but an American, and would consequently, just as Mr. Webster, or Mr. Clay, or Mr. Fillmore, or Gen. Scott, or any other great American statesman or General would do under similar circumstances, consult American interests. But it is just because I think that all these great statesmen will and do consult American interests, that I am convinced that none of them are or can be enemies to England. It may be that in this respect I judge of others by myself; for, as I have always hitherto said, I now repeat that the object I have most at heart is a firm and indissoluble union between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the United States of America. And when I wish so ardently for this alliance, it is not from any sentiment of national fear. [Applause.] I will not say any thing of our armies, of our navies, of our increasing financial prosperity; these are frail supports in comparison with the staff upon which I lean my confidence—namely, that spirit of patriotism which in our favored land is equally found in the Prince's palace and peasant's cabin. [Great cheering.] You will remember what took place in 1848, and recently in 1851. In the one case the highest peer in the realm descended into the streets with the constable's staff in his hand to protect the commonwealth; in the other, the most ardent political leaders of all parties declined power and place when they thought they could not hold them with advantage to the State. [Loud and long cheers.]

Oh! gentlemen, when I see a country in which all men are ready to come forward to face a common peril, and none are eager to push forward to gratify a selfish ambition, I feel convinced that that country has no cause to fear either an internal or an external foe. [Loud and prolonged cheers.] I do not, then, cherish the scheme of an Anglo-Saxon alliance from any sentiment of fear; nor do I look to it with any view towards a sort of Robinhood association, which would unite us, Anglo-Saxons, in a lawless scheme of pillaging and plundering the rest of mankind? No, the association which I desire to see between England and America is such a one, Mr. President, as that which connects the members of your society, an association which has for its object to protect the friendless, to instruct the ignorant, to advance every great work, to put down every petty jealousy, so that whilst we illustrate our own peculiar race by a noble policy, we may benefit every other people throughout the world by a great and good example. [Immense cheering and applause.]

A FAITHFUL OLD HORSE.

A friend relates the following, which has struck us, rightly considered, as possessing an element of the pathetic in no ordinary degree:

An old horse, that had served his master faithfully for some twenty-five years, was sold to a drover from one of the little Long Island Sound villages near New Haven, and taken to that pleasant town for shipment to the West Indies. As the old fellow went away, in new hands, he seemed to have a kind of *instinctive* presentiment that he was to return no more. He cast "many a longing, lingering look behind," and whinnied his apprehensions so affectingly that his old owner almost relented, and, but for seeming childish, he would have followed and revoked the bargain—a course which his children, who were watching the old horse depart, strenuously urged him to adopt. He disappeared, however, with his new master, and soon after, in company with a large drove of other horses, he was placed on board a vessel, which, one afternoon in March, set sail from New Haven for the West Indies. The vessel had hardly reached the open Sound, at night-fall, before a storm began to "brew," which by nine o'clock became so violent that the safety of the ship, captain, and crew was placed in imminent jeopardy. The craft labored so heavily that it was found necessary to throw over much of the live freight, which greatly incumbered the deck. The oldest and least valuable horses were selected, and among them was our four-legged "hero." The stormy waters of the Sound received the poor old fellow; but his "destiny" was not yet to be fulfilled. The shore, which the vessel had "hugged" in the tempest, was only three miles distant, and this, with more than "*superhuman* effort," he was enabled to reach. That very night his old master was awakened by the familiar "whinnying" of his faithful beast, over the long-accustomed door-yard gate, saying, like the old "gaberlunzeman" in the Scottish song,

> "Get up, good man, and let me in!"

The familiar sound came like the voice of "Nat Lee's spirit-horse," as described by Dana in the "Buccaniers," to that remorseful master. He *did* "get up," and led the old steed into his wonted stall, which he thereafter occupied undisturbed until his death. With an unerring instinct, that animal had travelled twenty-two miles, after reaching the shore, before he arrived at the door of his old master. "I shall never sell *another* old horse," said the original narrator of this story to our friend, "the longest day I live!"

[*Knickerbocker.*